



The background of the cover is a photograph of two men in an aircraft cockpit. On the left, a man in a military flight suit and sunglasses is seated in the pilot's position. On the right, a man in a red polo shirt and khaki pants is seated next to him, holding a Nikon camera. The cockpit interior, including control panels and windows, is visible.

Palmetto

Airlifter

315th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve
Charleston AFB, S.C.

September 2006, Volume 16, Number 9

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Says farewell**
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Captures award**
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315th honors Tuskegee Airmen**
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Future of our military looks promising

by Chief Master Sgt. Charlie Hall
81st Aerial Port Squadron

As I rapidly approach the twilight of my military career, I can't help but be concerned about my friends in the 315th Airlift Wing, and the future of my military. Yes, it's *my military*. I've been an American citizen for 59 years, a taxpayer for 44 years and worn a military uniform (Army and Air Force) for more than 29 years.

The enormous cost and uncertain future of the Global War on Terrorism is changing the way the military will do business forever. These changes are already happening as I see base closings and realignments.

Total Force integration is a buzz word you will not only hear, but the concept will direct the way you work and train forever. The Department of Defense has directed the Air Force Reserve to reduce its budget by \$156 million and 7,744 positions. Many of these people are our senior members with a vast amount of experience and talents. I wonder who will fill these vacancies and where will the next military generation come from?

I recently had the opportunity to see these young men and women as I visited the South Carolina Civil Air Patrol's "Encampment 2006" at McCrady Training Facility just outside Fort Jackson, S.C.

The CAP mission is not to recruit members for the military, but to provide the youth of our nation a quality program that enhances their leadership skills through an interest in aviation. Former 315th Airlift Wing member retired Lt. Col. Bob Townsend said, "We're just trying to strike a spark that may light a fire and lead to a military career." Ironically about half of the 100 members who attended the encampment will go into one of the military branches as an officer or enlisted member.

"Encampment 2006" is a rigorous training exercise for cadets ages 12 through 18. It is designed to challenge the cadet physically and mentally. It is the most important single challenge the cadet must meet before attaining the General Billy Mitchell Award and CAP officer grade.

The eight-day encampment began with the senior cadets barking instructions: "...get into a single file line, come to the position of parade rest. When it's time for you to move forwarding the line, come to attention, move forward until you are told to stop, then again assume position of parade rest! Once you reach the officer's desk, position yourself two paces in from of the desk, come to attention, salute and report "Sir /Ma'am, cadet (state your name) reports for encampment!" It kind of reminded me of my Army basic training days back in the late 60s.

The cadets were first introduced to

locker set-ups and inspections, how to properly make their bed, personal hygiene, military customs and courtesies. Some advanced cadets went to Fort Jackson for M-16 firearms training and live firing of the new M-4 weapon. The day would end with physical fitness.

"More PT drill sergeant," was echoed as the next morning began at 5:30 a.m. Only 25 minutes for breakfast then back in the classrooms for emergency services, moral leadership, National Cadet Special Activities and Drug Demand Reduction classes. Then they were outside on the Marine obstacle course where they overcame several "challenges." Just when the day was winding down, the cadets packed up and hiked to camp out over night.

They learned to put up tents, build lean-tos and master emergency skills on how to survive in the wild. The evening concluded as decorated war veterans told stories of their experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan.

After breakfast the next morning, they went to Shaw Air Force Base for an orientation ride on C-17 and C-130 aircraft....yes, about a third of them lost their breakfast. Security forces put on a working dog demonstration, and then they visited with the logistics troops who just returned from driver detail in Iraq.

CAP/continued on page 8

On the cover...

Bridging the gap: Capt. Clinton Johnson, 300th Airlift Squadron, shakes hands with Oscar Lawton Wilkerson, an Original Tuskegee Airmen, during an orientation flight over the Grand Canyon as part of the Tuskegee Airmen Convention in Phoenix, Ariz. For more information, see the story on page 6. (Photo by Capt. Wayne Capps)

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'I will remember you always'

by Col. Gary Cook
315th AW commander

A pilot quip, author unknown, goes something like this:

Only two bad things can happen to a pilot and one of them will.

1) One day you will go to the plane NOT knowing it is your last flight

2) One day you will go to the plane KNOWING it is.

I am sure the words "reservist" and "UTA" could be substituted in the above quip with equal effect. Right now, the first option seems far more preferable to me than knowing September's UTA will be my last.

This will be my last letter to you and no doubt my last letter as a member of the military to an audience of such auspicious standing. I will retire Sept. 28, not by choice, but because my service is no longer required. I have had the pleasure of serving with you for the last 36 months and it is extremely difficult to leave. But, having to leave, it is certainly my highest honor to have served my last days of duty as a member of the 315th Airlift Wing.

When I arrived at Charleston, you were fulfilling the role of primary air cargo base for the Global War on Terror. There were nearly 900 of you on duty each day, under partial mobilization, as directed by the president of the United States. You were the pride of Air Force Reserve Command, and as "Team Charleston" you were the pride of Air Mobility Command.

As I prepare to leave, you have made the transition from involuntary, though willingly, activated "Citizen Airmen" to voluntary Operational Reserve Wing and continue to be the crown jewel of AFRC and AMC among their numerous wealth of warriors.

The 500+ members on full-time duty and the 2,100+ more traditional Reserve members of the 315th AW make the difference everyday in the military's ability to prosecute the War on Terror



and continuing this country's efforts to build a new and freedom-based government in parts of the world too long denied their basic human freedoms.

I fill no need to quote numbers here on hours flown, cargo moved, patients saved or decorations earned. That story can be told by AEF deployment, fiscal year or campaign fought and will be a permanent part of history for everyone to see later.

Despite your outstanding success to date, however, there remains an unknown. What we have not yet measured is the weight of the willing heart of the warrior; how deep is the depth of the compassion you feel for your fellow man or how long lasting is your desire to see justice and freedom become a common value for all humanity?

Our present conflict is now at the duration equal to that of World War II. The same conflict that now defines "America's Greatest Generation." In 1943, no one knew the war would end in Europe and the Pacific just two years later. There was some serious doubt about the outcome of the struggle, and the cost of continuing, in both materials and human lives, was being questioned.

But those serving America persevered, soldiered-on, and won the victory.

Serious doubt about the present conflict appears almost daily and certainly nightly through the TV news channels, papers and radios of America and other parts of the world. They question the value of victory. What will they gain from this victory if it comes? What things are they losing now or what increased difficulties are they experiencing because we are engaged in this conflict?

They are very involved from a theoretical, almost casual, observer point of view. I believe they have yet to recognize that without victory there will be defeat. There may be no withdrawal to a neutral corner; no theoretical "Kings- X" as a non-player. This, I believe, is a fight to the finish.

In the 36 months I have been with you, you have done everything your country, the Air Force and I have asked of you. In most cases, you did what had to be done without being asked.

You have heard me say this before but it bears repeating. As a member of the 315th AW, you serve with just over 2,600 of the finest men and women you could ever hope to know or associate yourself.

Whether they are black, white or any other race or ethnic group, you can name. They have all stood forward in the light of freedom and sworn to defend the United States from all enemies and to bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America. They, like you, took this obligation freely, without reservation and have sworn to it on their solemn oath.

I ask this of you now. Persevere, soldier-on and win the victory. Because in my heart I know there is no scale that can measure the weight of a hero's heart; the unending compassion or unwavering desire of the "Citizen Airmen." I know this because I served with them and for them.

You are what is best in America; you are America's next "Greatest Generation," and I will remember you always.

On that day ...

Remember why the national anthem plays

by Maj. Mike Stolt
97th Flying Training Squadron

It was a hot Tuesday afternoon. I was leaving Bldg. 402 at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, after updating my base vehicle sticker. As I walked toward the double-glass doors leading to the parking lot, I encountered a small group of people standing just inside the door — two Airmen, a civilian employee and one captain. As I reached for the door, the captain said, "You don't want to go out there right now."

I looked out and saw traffic stopped and several people standing in the hot July sun, gazing westward, some saluting, some standing at attention and some with their hands laid on their chests.

No, I don't really want to go out there right now. I looked at my watch — 4:30 p.m.

I stood with the group that now numbered five. No one spoke. One Airman made a call on her cell phone, the other shifted his gaze back and forth between his shoes and the wall. The captain sifted through a folder of papers. The civilian and I watched through the glass doors as a technical sergeant stood at attention, saluting.

The base loudspeakers squeaked out the last recorded notes of the national anthem. The technical sergeant lowered his salute. The civilian pushed our door open and walked out. The rest of us followed. When the heat hit me, I felt fortunate that my timing had kept me inside during the long ceremony.

I thought about that day for weeks. Images of the episode flashed through my mind as if I'd witnessed a crime — the plate-sized sweat ring, the glow of the cell phone on the Airman's cheek, the civilian's hand resting on the door handle.

I recently read an article about the war on terror and learned that we average 2.35 Americans dead and 10 wounded every day in the area of responsibility. That day leapt back into my thoughts. A few hours of research helped me identify the date — July 14, 2005.

On July 14, 2005, 23-year-old Cpl. Chris Winchester and 22-year-old Cpl. Cliff Mounce were

killed when their vehicle was targeted by an improvised explosive device in Baghdad. On that day, 21-year-old Pfc. Tim Hines Jr. died when an IED hit his Humvee.

On that day, 34-year-old Staff Sgt. Tricia Jameson was killed by a secondary IED while she was treating a victim of the primary IED. She, Chris Winchester and Cliff Mounce all died in Trebil. We can assume she was treating Chris, Cliff or another in their group. She volunteered to go to Iraq and had been in-country three weeks.

On that day, four American Soldiers died in Iraq and numerous others were wounded. On that day, four families were plunged into mourning. On that day, I flew one sortie, sifted through e-mail, updated my base vehicle sticker and hid from the heat behind a glass door.

Why does it matter that I avoided participating in retreat? Some may think it's silly symbolism, that it's not real. An aircraft is real. A computer, a vehicle sticker — they're real.

I believe that anything that you allow to move you, or that inspires those around you to search their hearts is real. Anything that forces an entire base to stop and listen to their thoughts is real. Anything that causes you to pause and acknowledge American Soldiers may be under fire as you listen to the national anthem is real.

As we stood inside that doorway, the Soldiers killed and wounded that day may have been bleeding, screaming and dying.

If my timing is ever again as perfect as it was that day, I'll be prepared. I'll be ready with, "Yes, I do want to go out there right now." You may not come with me, but I'll bet you think about it for weeks.

If I had stepped outside to pay respect to the flag and to the four Soldiers who died that day, how long would it have taken?

One minute and 28 seconds.

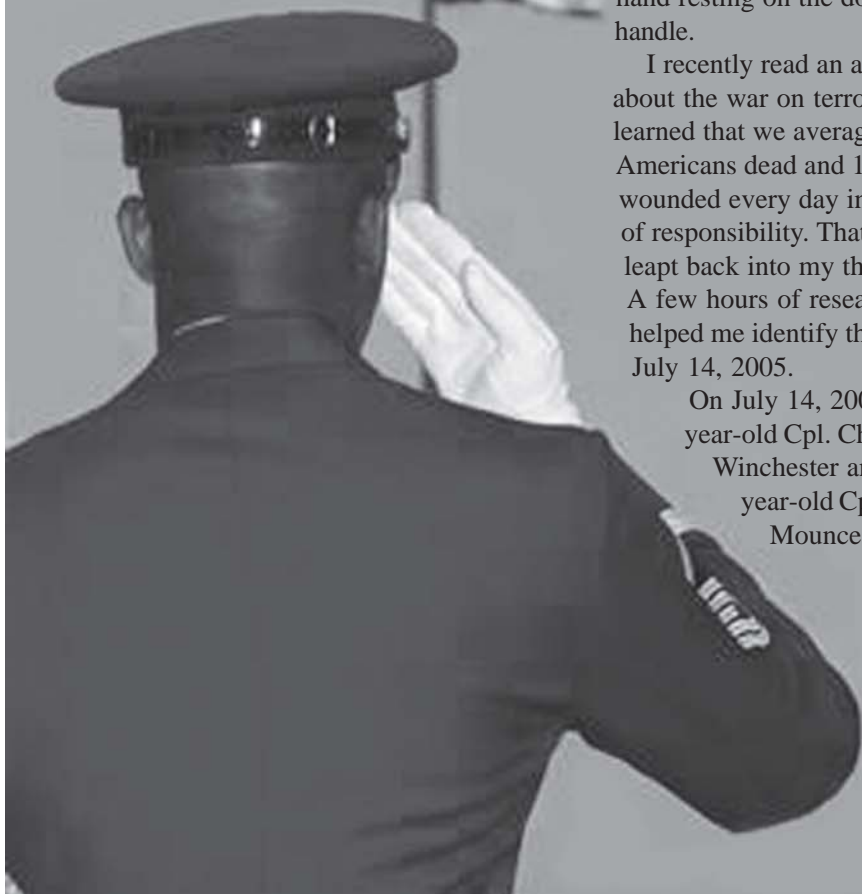




photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Kelly

Top performers: Staff Sgt. Marcus Ford, 315th Maintenance Squadron, drills a hole in a piece of sheet metal in the Fabrication Shop. The 315th Maintenance Group, which includes the 315th MXS, 315th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the Maintenance Operations Flight, was awarded the Outstanding Non-flying Unit Award for 2006.

Maintenance named outstanding unit

by Staff Sgt. Jeff Kelly
315th AW Public Affairs

The 315th Airlift Wing Maintenance Group has been awarded the Outstanding Non-flying Unit Award for 2006 which distinguishes them as the finest non-flying group in 22nd Air Force.

The award was presented to the 315th MXG at the national Reserve Officers Association convention that was held in San Antonio, Texas, in late July.

In order to qualify for the Outstanding Non-flying Unit award, the 315th MXG had to show exceptional skill in several different operational and non-operational areas including supporting deployments, training, safety, community outreach and unit accomplishments.

One of the largest of these unit accomplishments was the 315th MXG being selected for the Secretary of Defense Field-level Maintenance Award. These awards are presented annually to recognize outstanding achievements in military equipment and weapon systems maintenance.

"It makes me feel good," said Tech. Sgt. Michele Summers, a crew chief with the 315th MXG. "As busy as we are here at home and also deployed supporting the war fighting effort, it is good to know that we are being recognized for the hard work that we do."

The numbers tell the full story of how efficient and reliable the 315th MXG has been in the past.

The 315th MXG maintained an amazing 95.2 percent launch reliability

rate for 51,497 flying hours last year, while accomplishing 34 percent of the total C-17 aircraft production here at Charleston Air Force Base. The congressional mandate for an associate unit's production is 7 percent.

They also ensured the seamless maintenance support of a staggering 13,823 C-17 sorties worldwide, airlifting more than 111,592 tons of cargo and 68,387 passengers safely last year alone.

"I am very proud of the people who work directly for me, the squadron and the maintenance group as a whole," said Master Sgt. Chris Mong, section chief for the 315th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "Members of the maintenance group work long hours, long days and

MXG/continued on page 10



photos by Capt. Wayne Capps

Leading the way: James Sheppard, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, steps off the C-17 named "The Spirit of the Tuskegee Airmen" following a C-17 flight in Phoenix, Ariz. An all African-American crew from Charleston Air Force Base took nine Airmen on a flight over the Grand Canyon as part of the week-long Tuskegee Airmen Convention.

Generat

Tuskegee Airmen, modern

by Capt. Wayne Capps
315th AW Public Affairs

PHOENIX — The past and present came together Aug. 4 as African-American aviators from different generations took part in a historical flight aboard a C-17 Globemaster III.

An all-volunteer, African-American aircrew from the 315th and 437th Airlift Wings, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., and from the 446th AW, McChord AFB, Wash., flew nine original Tuskegee Airmen on an orientation flight on the C-17 named "The Spirit of the Tuskegee Airmen," as part of 35th annual Tuskegee Airman Convention in Phoenix.

"This flight united African-American aviators from two very different generations," said Master Sgt. Terry Grant, a reservist assigned to Air Force Reserve Command's 300th Airlift Squadron and one of the event planners. "These original Tuskegee Airmen had the opportunity to witness the fruits of their labor and see today's black aviators doing what they made possible."

According to historical information provided by the Tuskegee Airman, Inc., the Tuskegee Airmen were America's first black Airmen. At that time, many people thought that black men lacked the intelligence, skill, courage and patriotism to become aviators.

From 1942 through 1946, 994 pilots graduated at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Tuskegee, Ala. Black navigators, bombardiers and gunnery crews trained at various military bases elsewhere in the United States.

Sergeant Grant said Charleston Air Force Base has a close personal



Merging together
Lawton Wilkerson

tie to the Tuskegee Airmen. Walterboro, S.C., is located southwest of Charleston and served as a training base for Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.

"I am jealous," said Mr. Lane, an 81-year-old Tuskegee Airman who flew in the flight. "I wish I was about 55 years old."

Mr. Lane, a sea veteran who flew missions from Randolph Field during World War II, was a 51 Mustang pilot in Europe and in Walterboro, S.C.

The idea to take the original Tuskegee Airmen on a mission's manner, Capt. Terry Grant, from the 701st Airlift Squadron.

According to Capt. Grant, this mission was a way to show future generations the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.

"There were many African-American pilots in the Tuskegee Airmen,"

Generations come together

Modern aviators share C-17 flight



Master Sgt. Lee Cottrell, 701st Airlift Squadron, and Oscar Beckwith share stories during the Tuskegee Airmen's C-17 flight.

the Airmen because a town 40 miles from Charleston, was used for the Tuskegee Army Airfield during World War II. said Charles, the original Tuskegee Airmen who participated in the flight. "I wish I could give up and fly with them." The Tuskegee Airmen were a segregated unit during World War II. In 1942, 26 combat aircraft were sent to Italy, trained as a P-51 Mustang at Tuskegee, Ala., and then sent to the Tuskegee Army Airfield. The Tuskegee Airmen were an all African-American unit who flew with the Tuskegee Army Airfield. The Tuskegee Airmen came from various parts of the country. Captain Troutman, about influencing the Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Airmen were African-American. The Tuskegee Airmen were trained in 1943 and 1944

with the development of the Tuskegee Airmen than we have in 2006," said the captain. "This is about getting the word out to younger generations that their goals can be reached."

Opportunities are also available to black women. Maj. Kimberly Scott from McChord's 446th AW was one of the pilots on the flight.

Eugene Richardson, an 81-year-old former P-40 and P-47 pilot who also trained in Walterboro, S.C., said the flight was "fantastic."

"They (the aircrew) did almost as good as I did back then," he said with a laugh.

Mr. Richardson also said he felt a special connection with the crew. "They are close to my heart," he said.

"I am glad that they (the aircrew) recognize that it is these old guys that made what they do possible," he added as he walked off the plane. "It is just a great feeling to see all these black pilots around."



Modern aviators: Master Sgt. Robert Barrett and Master Sgt. Furman Beckwith, both with the 300th Airlift Squadron, prepare for the flight with the original Tuskegee Airmen.

Who are the Tuskegee Airmen?

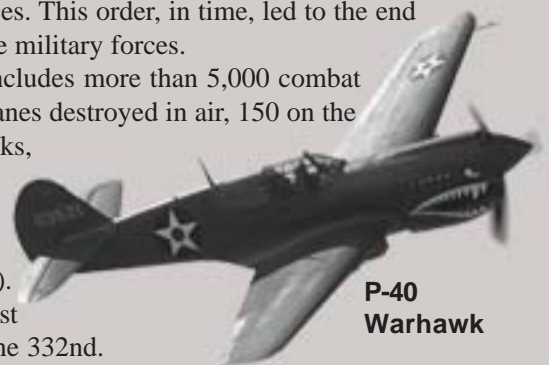
According to the Tuskegee Airmen Web site, Tuskegee Airmen were determined young men who enlisted to become America's first black military Airmen. They became pilots, navigators and bombardiers, as well as mechanics, radio repairmen and more. They were trained in all the skills necessary to fully function as a flying or ground support unit.

The black Airmen who became single-engine or multi-engine pilots were trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Ala. The first aviation cadet class began in July 1941 and completed training nine months later in March 1942. Thirteen started in the first class, five successfully completed the training.

From 1942-1946, 994 pilots graduated, receiving commissions and pilot wings. Four hundred and fifty of the pilots trained served overseas in either the 99th Pursuit Squadron (later the 99th Fighter Squadron) or the 332nd Fighter Group.

In 1948, President Harry Truman enacted Executive Order Number 9981 which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces. This order, in time, led to the end of racial segregation in the military forces.

Their combat record includes more than 5,000 combat sorties; 111 German airplanes destroyed in air, 150 on the ground; 950 railcars, trucks, motor vehicles destroyed; 66 pilots killed in action, accidents; and 32 pilots downed, captured (POWs). No U.S. bombers were lost while being escorted by the 332nd.



**P-40
Warhawk**

Leader of the pack**Reservist competes, wins at motorcycle competitions**

by Tech. Sgt. Mary Hinson
315th AW Public Affairs

Riding a motorcycle is second nature for Tech. Sgt. Rob Grimsley, 315th Airlift Wing Family Support. "I've been riding since I was 5 years old."

Growing up in northern Virginia, Sergeant Grimsley said, "It was something to do."

Now, not only does he do it for a living as a Charleston County Sheriff's Office motorcycle cop, but Sergeant Grimsley participates in motorcycle competitions, taking first at the Second Annual Capital City Challenge police motorcycle skills competition (Rodeo) in Tallahassee, Fla., and competing in the first-ever North Charleston competition.

For the Florida competition, the team not only took first place out of 25 teams and 83 riders, but Sergeant Grimsley placed first in the Road King Harley-Davidson Expert division, and he and his partner placed first in the partner ride.

These competitions are "all about making sure you can handle the motorcycle when a hot call comes," said Sergeant Grimsley, who has been competing for three years. "This rodeo helps individuals and us to see how they will respond under pressure."

Although these competitions are far from what real-life situations are, they are created to mirror life as much as possible with live-fire exercises, obstacle courses and memory exercises. Each of the motorcycles entered are certified working police bikes, and participants are dressed in their police uniforms.



courtesy photo

Easy riding: Tech. Sgt. Rob Grimsley, 315th Airlift Wing Family Support, competes during the Second Annual Capital City Challenge police motorcycle skills competition in Tallahassee, Fla. Sergeant Grimsley and his team from the Charleston County Sheriff's Office took first place in this competition.

Competitions usually last three days — two days of practice and one for the final runs.

But, according to Sergeant Grimsley, who tries to go to two or three competitions a year, it isn't all about winning. "Competition is a small part of it; it's the camaraderie."

The award-winning rider said he can't imagine a better or more challenging job.

"Motorcycle cops can be high liability and high risk," said Sergeant Grimsley, who has been a cop for 16 years.

"It's not like CHIPS," he added, referring to the television program from

the late 70s to early 80s many people think of when they think of motorcycle cops.

According to Sergeant Grimsley, the 80-hour course to become a motorcycle cop is "one of the hardest police courses there is. There's a 40 percent fail rate."

The course does not teach beginners; it's focused on teaching advance riders skills they would need in the field.

The skills competitions are also designed to help hone the skills officers need in the line of duty, such as reaction time in certain situations. "It's second nature to them because of these competitions."

CAP/continued from page 2

The cadets concluded the encampment with a formal dining-in the last night and a pass in review parade and graduation ceremony the last morning.

As Colonel Townsend viewed the graduates, I heard him say, "...you never know the impact you make on these young men and women. Because of their experience here these last eight days, hopefully they will become better members of the community, and maybe even end up volunteering for the military."

I can tell you all right now from what I've seen these members of the South Carolina Wing Civil Air Patrol are the future of our military. They embody their core values of Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence and Respect. They will be the ones who carry on the excellence and reputation us "old folks" have devoted so much of our lives to establish.

My military will survive and excel beyond the challenges and struggles of the future, and I will be proud of them, just as I am proud of each of you.

Awards

Quarterly award winners

Field Grade Officer of the
Quarter: **Maj. John Robinson**,
315th OSS

Company Grade Officer of the
Quarter: **1st Lt. Yvonne Noisette**,
315th AMXS

Senior Noncommissioned
Officer of the Quarter: **Master
Sgt. David Turner**, 315th MXS

NCO of the Quarter: **Staff Sgt.
Danielle Jarrell**, 315th OSS

Airman of the Quarter: **Senior
Airman Allyson Midkiff**, 315th
AMDS

Graduations

Senior NCO Academy

Master Sgt. Roberta Kithcart,
315th SVF

NCOLDP class

Senior Airman Trevor Boling,
315th AMXS

Staff Sgt. Carlton Coley, 315th
AMXS

Staff Sgt. Oliver Crisp III, 512th
MSS, Dover

Staff Sgt. Jon Dumont, 315th
AMXS

Senior Airman Laura Fisher, 315th
AMXS

Staff Sgt. Charles Forehand, 315th
AMXS

Tech. Sgt. James Fox, 315th
AMXS

Staff Sgt. Matthew Gillespie,
315th AMXS

Senior Airman Matthew Gregg,
84th APS

Staff Sgt. Gregory Harris, 315th
AMXS

Staff Sgt. Douglas Holzbaur, 315th
AMXS

Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Holzbaur,
315th AMXS

Tech. Sgt. DaWayne Johnson,
315th MSS

Staff Sgt. V LeonGuerrero, 315th
AMXS

Senior Airman Jarrod Mills, 315th
AMXS

Staff Sgt. Daniel Putzke, 315th
AMXS

Senior Airman Christopher Shea,
315th AMXS

Senior Airman Timothy Solly,
315th AMXS

Around the wing...



photo by Tech. Sgt. Mary Hinson

Lookin' good: Tech. Sgt. Joseph Hedges (left) and Master Sgt. Joel Murray, both recruiters with the 315th Airlift Wing, inspect the new wrap work on the trailer for the miniature C-17.

Tech. Sgt. Darryl Stetson, 315th
SFS

Senior Airman Shawn Summers,
315th AMXS

Promotions

Chief master sergeant

Gigi Manning, 315th AMXS

Senior master sergeant

Lisa Connelley, 315th AMDS

Medals

Meritorious Service Medal

Senior Master Sgt. Lisa Connelley,
315th AMDS

Master Sgt. Ronald Dye,
315th MXS

Senior Master Sgt. Lawrence
Harps Jr., 315th MXS

Master Sgt. McVeigh Heaster III,
315th MXS

Senior Master Sgt. James Hobson
Jr., 315th AMXS

Col. Sharyn Roettger, 315th AES

Senior Master Sgt. Samantha
Stevens, 315th AMXS

Master Sgt. Robert Weaver, 315th
AMDS

Senior Master Sgt. James White,
315th AMXS

Air Force Commendation Medal

Senior Airman Jenell Allen, 81st
APS

Staff Sgt. Kristen Banks, 81st APS

Tech. Sgt. Sheryl Blackwell, 81st
APS

Staff Sgt. Michael Bouis, 315th
LRF

Tech. Sgt. Ben Bradshaw, 81st APS

Senior Master Sgt. Brailey Brooks,
81st APS

Tech. Sgt. Michael Callahan,
81st APS

Staff Sgt. Norwood Canty,
81st APS

Staff Sgt. Alvin Casiano-Torres,
81st APS

Senior Master Sgt. William
Cavanaugh, 81st APS

Master Sgt. Abe Clark III, 81st APS

Staff Sgt. Michael Clark, 81st APS

Master Sgt. Walter Cohen Jr.,

81st APS

Staff Sgt. Bailey Courson, 81st APS

Senior Airman Brian Dawson,
81st APS

Senior Airman Janice Eadie,
81st APS

Tech. Sgt. Barry Evans, 81st APS

Master Sgt. Kim Fair, 81st APS

Senior Airman Jeffrey Fairchild,
81st APS

Master Sgt. Maurice Fleming,
315th LRF

Tech. Sgt. John Frasier Jr.,
81st APS

Master Sgt. Samuel Gamble,
81st APS

Senior Airman Corey Gibbons,
81st APS

Tech. Sgt. David Gibbs Jr., 81st
APS

Tech. Sgt. Eric Gibeaut, 81st APS

Tech. Sgt. Joe Gilliard, 81st APS

Staff Sgt. John Gilmer, 315th LRF

Master Sgt. Jerry Goodwin,
315th LRF

Senior Airman Tracie Gossett,
81st APS

**Recognition/continued on
page 10**

Recognition/continued from page 9

Staff Sgt. Joseph Gudmestad,
315th LRF
Tech. Sgt. Donald Hamlin, 81st APS
Senior Master Sgt. Ronnie
Hammonds, 81st APS
Tech. Sgt. John Harmon, 81st APS
Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Harrell, 81st APS
Airman 1st Class David Henry,
81st APS
Staff Sgt. Gerri Johnson, 315th CES
Tech. Sgt. James Mack, 38th APS
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Manigault,
315th LRF
Tech. Sgt. John Parsons, 315th LRF
Tech. Sgt. Brian Ratliff, 315th LRF
Staff Sgt. Vernell Richardson,
315th AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Norman Wagner, 315th
AMXS

Air Force Achievement Medal

Staff Sgt. Davon Anderson,
315th LRF
Staff Sgt. Michael Brooks,
315th CES
Staff Sgt. Steven Smith, 315th SFS
Staff Sgt. Martin Whipkey,
315th LRF

Hails**315th AMDS**

Tech. Sgt. Laura Welander

315th AES

Airman 1st Class Mark Fouke

317th AS

2nd Lt. Brent Gordon
Tech. Sgt. Jesse Howard
2nd Lt. Jamie Turner

315th AMXS

Senior Airman Jerimy Murphy

315th MXS

Staff Sgt. Claude Hurlburt
Senior Airman Bradford Lang

315th MOF

Airman 1st Class Charlene Dieter

38th APS

Staff Sgt. Cyndee Busco
Airman 1st Class Charlene
Kapinski

81st APS

Airman 1st Class Johnathan
Harvey
Senior Airman DAngelo Palmer
Senior Airman Whitney Weber

84th APS

Airman Brayden Young

315th CES

Senior Airman Birt Adams
Senior Airman Matthew Carter
Staff Sgt. Shivering Griffin
Master Sgt. Nicole Hanson
Senior Airman Shalonda Johnson
Senior Airman Mary Powell
Staff Sgt. Amber Welsh

315th SFS

Staff Sgt. Brent Marvicka

315th LRF

Staff Sgt. Joshua Morrison
Senior Airman Tiffany Simmons

Enlistments**315th AW**

Master Sgt. Terrence Rhone

315th AMDS

Tech. Sgt. Annette Gaines

315th AES

Master Sgt. Christopher Owens

701st AS

Master Sgt. Arthur Murray

315th AMXS

Master Sgt. Geneva Smalls
Master Sgt. Charles Strowd III

315th MXS

Staff Sgt. Adam Boatwright
Master Sgt. Ronald Dye
Tech. Sgt. Paul Eubanks
Tech. Sgt. Randall Gillum
Tech. Sgt. Anthony Gray
Master Sgt. Harvey Hall Jr.
Tech. Sgt. Timothy McIver
Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Powell
Staff Sgt. Jason Shamis

315th MSG

Master Sgt. Acquinetta Heath

38th APS

Master Sgt. Gwen Crabtree
Master Sgt. Dexter McIlwain
Senior Master Sgt. Edward Pankey
Chief Master Sgt. Linda Smith
Master Sgt. Joseph Trott III

53rd APS

Senior Airman Javonne Barnwell
Tech. Sgt. Lawrence Quinnett

84th APS

Master Sgt. Gregory Cochran

315th MSS

Staff Sgt. Kia Singleton

Team Charleston Spotlight

Name: Senior Airman Shera Rivera

Unit: 315th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

Position: Administrative

Civilian job:

Receptionist at Ultra
Mobile X-ray

Hometown: Miami,
Fla.

**Best part of my
job:** Dealing with
radiologist and x-
rays

**Most challenging
part of my job:**
Determining fractures

Hobbies: Spending
time with daughter at
the park

Ideal vacation: Hawaii

I'd like others to say this about me: I'm a hard
worker

Favorite food: Puerto Rican food

Favorite music: The oldies, 70s, 80s slow songs

This would make my day: Helping someone out

If I could be anyone else: My mom, Rosa

Personal goal: Become a medical transcriptionist

Something I would do if I had the time: Travel the
world

**MXG/continued from page 5**

long deployments keeping the aircraft flying and capable of bringing the equipment and people needed to the fight."

"This award is a tribute to the wide range of talents the people in this group possess and the willingness to always volunteer and help others," said Sergeant Mong. "Stepping up to the challenge and always working hard runs rampant in this group."

The 315th MXG should be proud of this accomplishment, as they are a model for other groups not only at Charleston Air Force Base but across the Air Force. The 315th MXG continuously strives to meet the highest possible standards of service and professionalism displaying excellence in all they do. The words of their commander echo this sentiment.

"Members of the 315th Maintenance Group have served over 665,000 days on activity since 6 Oct 2001," said Col. James Joyce, commander of the 315th MXG. "Two hundred members are serving today. At every commander's call I tell them how proud am I to be part of the 315th and how lucky our nation is to have people willing to spend their precious time supporting and defending our constitution. I don't need awards to make me feel good about our folks; I am humbled to serve with them."

NEWS

AIR FORCE NEWS

Uniform updates

An update to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Air Force Uniform Dress and Appearance, will soon be released, said Air Force officials.

A key feature of this updated instruction will be the return of heritage to the enlisted corps — chevrons on the sleeves and circles around the U.S. insignia.

The change will include the removal of senior NCO shoulder boards from the blue uniform and from all upper garments, except the optional wool sweaters. Implementation dates will be reflected in the revised AFI.

The updates will also include information about the new air staff badge and new space badge. Desert combat uniforms are now only authorized on civilian flights to and from the area of responsibility. Also, Air Force personnel are not authorized to wear desert boots with the battle dress uniform.

As a reminder, Oct. 1 marks the mandatory wear of physical training gear. All Airmen will be required to have one running suit, two T-shirts and two pair of shorts. Also beginning in October, enlisted Airmen will receive an increase in their clothing allowance to offset the increase of the mandatory number of T-shirts and shorts from two sets to three sets in October 2007.

Retirement application process centralized

As of July 31, all eligible members of the Air Force Reserve should be able to submit their retirement application electronically via the virtual Personnel Center Guard and Reserve, a 24/7 customer service Web portal operated by

the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver.

This new Web-enabled service is available at any time from anywhere in the world and will give Airmen the ability to monitor the status of their application from start to finish. Reservists can log on to the vPC-GR at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/support/default.asp> to begin the process.

For more information about ARPC Personnel Service Delivery, visit <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/psd/default.asp>. (by *Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims, Air Reserve Personnel Center Public Affairs*)

No more hard copy tax statements

Hard copy mailings of W-2 Tax Earning Statements will be turned off this year for all active duty, Guard and Reserve personnel, according to the Air Force Accounting and Finance Office. Personnel will have to use myPay to obtain their W-2s.

COMMAND NEWS

JROTC instructor applications

Retirees from the Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard can apply for instructor duty in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. AFJROTC officials anticipate Congress will approve and enact legislation to Title 10 by Oct. 1 permitting them to hire retired Air Guard and Reserve members as instructors. Currently, active-duty retirees are the only people serving as AFJROTC instructors.

Based on this anticipated approval, AFJROTC is accepting applications from Guard and Reserve members who retired within the past 5 years or less, or who are within 6 months of a fixed retirement date.

People can access applications via the AFJROTC public Web site - www.afrota.af.mil - by selecting "AFJROTC" and then "Instructor Application."

More information is available by calling 1-866-235-7682, extensions 7742, 5112 or 2535. (AFRC News Service from an AFJROTC news release)

WING NEWS

Voting program

With upcoming general elections, the Federal Voting Assistance Program wants to ensure all members regardless of their location are afforded the opportunity to cast a ballot for whomever they choose to represent them.

The FVAP has three distinct goals - to inform and educate U.S. citizens worldwide of their right to vote; to foster voting participation; and to protect the integrity of, and simultaneously enhance, the electoral process at the Federal, State and local levels.

For more information, contact your FVAP unit representative, first sergeant or Master Sgt. Keith Bright, 315th Airlift Wing Judge Advocate Office, at 963-5564 or 963-5380.

Air Force Ball tickets

Tickets for this year's Air Force Ball are on sale through the 315th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office. The date is Sept. 9, with cocktails starting at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. The price of the tickets is \$35. For more information, call 963-2036.

First sergeant needed

A first sergeant position is available with the 300th Airlift Squadron. All interested personnel must submit a military resume, copies of their last three Enlisted Performance Reports and a letter of recommendation from their commander.

Packages should be forwarded by Sept. 8 to 315 AW/CCM, 105 E. Hill Blvd, Charleston AFB SC 29404.

Questions concerning this announcement can be directed to Chief Master Sgt. Ben Futrell at 963-2032 or Senior Master Sgt. James Simmons at 963-2069.

Significant September UTA Events**Saturday, September 16**

1 p.m.: HRDC, wing conference room

3 p.m.: Col. Cook's farewell BBQ, ceremonial hangar

Sunday, August 6

10 a.m.: 315th AW Change of Command, ceremonial hangar



* Events are current as of Aug. 8, 2006

Family Day fun



photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Kleber

Showcasing: Auto enthusiasts show off their cars at the two-day Charleston Air Force Base Match Up Family Day Picnic Aug. 4-5. The event featured food, children's games, rides and live entertainment.



Providing info: Master Sgt. Keith Bright, 315th Airlift Wing Judge Advocate Office, hands out voting information during the picnic.



Exploring: Children had the opportunity to examine the miniature version of the C-17, "The Spirit of Hope, Liberty and Freedom."

315th AW/PA
218 N. Bates Street
Charleston AFB, SC 29404-4917